

Presentation of Mary Academy

January 2007 Newsletter

182 Lowell Road Hudson, NH 03051

Visit us on the website.

www.pmaschool.org

The Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany meaning "manifestation", "revelation", is the oldest of the Christmas feasts and is still celebrated on January 6th as the major feast of the season by the Eastern Christian churches. The feast probably began in those churches in the Middle East strongly influenced by the Gospel of John, who proclaimed Jesus Christ:

*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory, the glory of the Father's only Son full of grace and truth. (John 1,14)*

As "the true light, which enlightens everyone," comes into the world, Jesus came not only that we might see his glory but also that we might share in it. "From his fullness we have all received, grace for grace." (John 1,16) His baptism in the Jordan and his presence at the marriage feast of Cana in Galilee (two themes from John's gospel still closely connected with the Feast of the Epiphany) portray Jesus revealed as God's Son and uniting humanity to himself.

From earliest times the Feast of the Epiphany, like Easter, was a day for baptizing those who believed in his name. To them, "he gave power to become children of God." (John 1,12) The story of the Magi, from Matthew's gospel, celebrates the call of God to all peoples to share in the grace of Jesus Christ. "The Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ through the gospel." (Ephesians 3, 5-6)

Historians see the Feast of the Epiphany originating from early Jewish-Christian celebrations of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrated God's glory in covenant, light and water. In John's gospel this same Jewish feast often becomes the setting for the question: Who is Jesus Christ? (cf John 7-10) The gospel affirms, as does this feast, he is God's divine Son.

In some regions the Feast of the Epiphany is also called the Feast of the Holy Kings or Three King's Day. Gifts are given in memory of the Magi's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Homes are blessed with holy water, in remembrance of that blessed home where the Magi found the Child and his mother. The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus usually follows the celebration of this feast in the western church.



Word of Thanks

Congratulations to Mrs. Joy Iaquina, the Select Choir and Flutists for doing such a great job at the beautiful Advent/Christmas Concert! We're very fortunate to have such a talented and gifted music teacher and students!

Parent Group

A special word of thanks to all the volunteers who helped with Saint Nicholas's visit to PMA, and the Kindergarten Thanksgiving Tea.

Tuesday, January 2, 2007

Classes Resume at Presentation of Mary Academy

REGISTRATION FORMS

Registration Forms Due on January 2, 2007

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 cartridges & cell phones.

NEW

- ◆ CAPS FROM ALUMINUM CANS

Student Council Meetings

January 3, 17, 31, 2007
11:00-11:45 A.M.

A Prayer for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of the Risen Christ,
Be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Be with us today and always. Amen.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK IS JANUARY 29 -FEBRUARY 2!

Theme:

PMA: The Good News in Education!

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

Calendar of Events for January 2007 and Catholic Schools Week!

Tuesday, January 2:

- ◆ Classes resume at PMA
- ◆ Registration forms and fees due in the office

Wednesday, January 3:

Important Parent Information Session for parents in grades K-8 in the school Auditorium at 7:00 P.M. Please refer to the Agenda/Letter sent home on Wednesday, December 13, 1006.

Wednesday, January 10:

- ◆ Faculty meeting in the Library from 3:00—4:00 P.M.

Friday, January 12:

Open House and information session in the Auditorium for new incoming students and parents entering grades K-8 from 11:30 until 1:00 P.M.

Monday, January 15: No School!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Monday January 15-19:

Nature's Classroom Experience for Students in Grades 5 and 6: The students will be spending a week at a Nature's Classroom site in Charlton, MA with Mrs. DeCosta, Mrs. Zavalick, Ms. Babcock, and Mrs. Fabianski.

Thursday, January 19:

Presentation by Mr. Emile Anderson on Charitable Giving and Financial Planning in the school auditorium at 7:00 P.M.

Catholic Schools Week

January 29—February 2, 2007

**Theme: PMA: THE GOOD NEWS
IN EDUCATION**

Please don't forget to mark your calendars for Catholic School 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 29th through February 2nd.

Sunday, January 29: Parish Talks

Snow Day: Sunday, February 5

On Sunday, January 28, 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 30:

- ◆ **Grades 4-8: Opening of the Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service** at 8:30 A.M. in the chapel for students and parents.
- ◆ **Grades K-3: Opening of the Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service** at 9:00 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 School Week will get a **Dress Down Day** on Friday, February 23, 2007! Be sure to purchase a **Catholic School Button** (\$1.00) before January 29, 2007. You must wear your BUTTON during Catholic Schools Week in order to qualify for the DRESS DOWN DAY in February!

Tuesday, January 30:

Student and Staff Appreciation Breakfast sponsored by the PMA Parent Group!

Pajama Day for Students in Grades K-5:

That's right, roll out of bed and into school ... no need to change into uniforms this morning! Wear your favorite night attire to school! Make it comfy, appropriately respectful, and warm. For safety reasons, **NO SLIPPERS!**

Spirit Wear Day for Students in Grades

6-8: Wear your favorite jeans with any maroon or gray shirt, top, sweater, ...as long as you come dressed in school colors! It's all about getting into school SPIRIT!

Wednesday, January 31:

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.

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. Admission \$3.00

Thursday, February 1: 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!

Mass for Students in Grades 1-3 at

1:00 P.M. Parents, please join us for the celebration of the Catholic Schools Week Liturgy.

Friday, February 2: 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!

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 .

Talent Show for First Grade Students:

A number of FIRST GRADE STUDENTS will perform in the FIRST GRADE TALENT SHOW scheduled for Friday, February 2nd, at 12:30 PM in the Auditorium! First grade parents are welcome to attend. More information will be sent home in January from Mrs. Polombo and Mrs. Lamontagne.

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! More information to come home in January!



**Catholic Schools
Week
Buttons Go
on Sale
Beginning
January 10th!
Don't Forget to Purchase
Your BUTTON!**



Drama Club

On Thursday, March 15, 2007, the PMA Drama Club, under the direction of Mrs. Merina Dolan will present the musical, **The Magical Land of OZ.**

Come join us for an evening of entertainment in our school auditorium.

Drama Club Members:

Justin Benham, Sherri Bennett, Krystara Brassard, Jackie Cantara, Ryan Cardinal, Ryan Christian, Cameron Cormay, Alicia Cormier, Kaitlin Coumas, Abigail Crane, Olivia Crane, Amanda Creedon, Carol Lee Cummings, Ray d'Entremont, Meghan Duffy, Andrea Fitzgerald, Bethany Fitzgerald, Melissa Fitzgerald, Melissa Fraser, Lauren Garand, Lisa Gelsomini, Caroline Gindhart, Brogan Goss, Katelyn Guill, Danielle Jaskiewicz, Elise Jortberg, Jessy Lamontagne, Rachel LeBel, Kellcey Lesmerises, Deanna Marion, Kevin McAleese, Rebecca McCarthy, CJ McKay, Francesca McKay, Kate Mosca, Jocelyn Noel, Michael Ogden, Maureen Prestia, Jenelle Psaedas, Kaitlin Quigley, Anushya Raghuram, Jessica Rau, Elya Reznichenko, Cori Roach, Amy Rufiange, Elaina Silveri, Caity Sullivan, Shaina Varela, Jessica Verfaillie, Erin Wade.

Tutoring Available on New Website

The Supplemental Educational Services Quality (SESQ) Center has launched a free Website (www.tutorsforkids.org) to help school children take advantage of free tutoring opportunities provided by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Tutorsforkids.org provides tools to help parents, educators, policymakers, and program providers ensure that children "in need of improvement" get the extra academic help they need. Parents get help identifying and selecting local providers to meet their children's needs; educators get help informing parents about options and ensuring that they receive high-quality service; policymakers get help implementing and evaluating the program; and new tutorial service providers get help entering the market and improving their services.

The SESQ Center was established in 2003 through a grant to the American Institutes for Research (AIR) from the Office of Innovation and Improvement of the U.S. Department of Education (www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/index.html). AIR (www.air.org) is an independent, not-for-profit, social and behavioral research organization that engages in education research, development, evaluation, analysis, training, technical assistance, communications, and assessment.

Incorporating Service Learning into the Curriculum

Service learning projects have become a significant part of the curriculum in many schools across our nation. Many educators feel that these endeavors teach children responsibility, promote civic awareness, encourage volunteerism, foster compassion, and prepare children for life beyond the classroom. Recent examples of service learning projects include children collecting and sending supplies to troops in Iraq and helping raise funds for tsunami victims.

Service learning is emerging as an effective way to teach students important elements of character—and give them an appreciation of what it means to give back to the community. Much more than traditional "community service," service learning engages students through real life experiences in real world settings.

Following are some characteristics of the service learning experience:

- It extends beyond the classroom.
- It provides real learning, integrated into the curriculum.
- It involves real service and meets real needs in the community.
- It provides time for, and emphasis on, reflection by the student.
- It promotes character development by fostering a sense of caring.
- It provides a sense of accomplishment.

Service learning projects are a way to allow students, educators, parents, and community members to work together for a common cause. Central to our mission, Presentation of Mary Academy continuously engages students in the concept of "service learning" by engaging in programs such as outreach programs through our music program to the elderly, Nashua Soup Kitchen, collection of food items and money for the disadvantaged in our community, the Earth Day Project in April, plus numerous other projects that occur throughout the year. As a New Year's resolution, encourage your family to engage in a **'Family Service Learning Project.** What better way to teach our children at a young age to become active volunteers

Hello from the Parent Group:

We are off to a great start this year! Our Parent Group has been very busy planning and preparing many fun filled family events. Among these events were the Family Fun Fest, Thanksgiving Tea and a visit from St. Nicholas!

We have many other events which we are excited about. They are as follows:

- ◆ Skiing at Pats Peak on Friday nights!! Cost is \$17 for a lift ticket and \$33 for a lift and rental ticket. For more information, please call Lisa Garand or Kim Coumas..
- ◆ Teacher Appreciation Breakfast during Catholic Schools Week. This will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 30th. Anyone interested in volunteering or baking for this event, please call Lisa Garand or Patty Sherburne.
- ◆ Family Bingo Night to conclude Catholic School Week on Friday, February 2nd. Start thinking of a great treat/snack to bring as a prize for others to win! More details to follow soon.
- ◆ Father/Daughter Dance on Friday, Feb.16th, 7:00—9:00pm at St. Kathryn Parish. Tickets will go on sale shortly after the holidays.
- ◆ Direct TV is offering a great deal to local schools. With every new contract or renewal of a contract, PMA will receive \$100. Please read through the parent information packets sent home to you . Any questions, please call Lisa Garand or Kim Coumas.
- ◆ PMA night at Roller Kingdom, Wednesday, Jan. 31st. 6:30—8:30. More information to follow later in the month.

We are very excited to announce the date for the 8th Grade Graduation Dance! The dance will be held on Friday, May 25th. Please watch for more information regarding the dance as time grows closer.

We will not be having a meeting in January. In lieu of the January 3rd meeting, we hope parents will attend and support the Informational Meeting be held by Sr. Maria at 7:00pm in the auditorium.

The Parent Group would like to extend the very best wishes for a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Parent Group Contact Information:

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

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
- 205 - Guidance - Ms. Kirschner
- 206 - Nurse - Mrs. Mottard
- 207 - After School Program - Ms. McManus
- 455 - Absentee or Tardy Arrival Reporting
- 456 - School Holiday & Closing

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. Drama, 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 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 carline. 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 carline 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 carline 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 carline and pickup procedures, please call Mrs. Phaneuf in the school office (603) 889-6054 ext. 200.



INCLEMENT WEATHER **SCHOOL CLOSING & DELAY REMINDERS**

School closing 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 holiday/school closing line (603) 889-6054 ext. 456. When looking at 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.

In the event that there is a delayed opening, the Before School Program will be cancelled. Please check the December newsletter for arrival times if there should be a school delay. Thank you.

