



Presentation of Mary Academy

March 2007

182 Lowell Road Hudson, NH 03051

Visit us on the website www.pmaschool.org

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we're about ready to begin our February vacation next week. It doesn't seem possible that we're half way through the school year. Hopefully, when we return from the winter break, the snow will have melted, and the tulips and daffodils will be "breaking ground". We're ready for the warmer weather here at Presentation of Mary Academy.

On Wednesday, February 21, 2007, (Ash Wednesday) we begin our journey into one of the most sacred liturgical seasons of our Christian faith - Lent. As we enter into this holy season, may we find time in our lives to reflect on how profoundly loved we are by God. May our hearts and lives be ready and open to all that God challenges each of us to live as we strive to love God and neighbor as much as He loves us! The challenge is never an easy one—but with it comes the joy of experiencing the Easter moment, the moment when we realize that, because of Christ's death and resurrection, we are indeed worthy of being called "children of God", heirs of the Kingdom!

Wishing you the joy of a holy Lenten season!

Sr. Maria Rosa, pm
Principal

It's always good to hear from past graduates and parents; a Testimonial Letter from a parent whose six children attended PMA.

Dear Sr. Maria,

What a wonderful idea...to have your students talk in the parishes on Sunday. Peg and I attended the 11:30 Mass at St. John's on Sunday and Bethany Fitzgerald spoke. She was terrific. Her message was uplifting and inviting. She delivered it so well - you could tell that she meant every word that she said and she was so strong in inviting folks to consider PMA if they were considering a Catholic education. (By the way, she also, spoke well of an urgency to apply - because of limited spaces).

Both Peg and I were highly impressed by Bethany and left both feeling proud of the example of the kind of person who graces our school, and thrilled that the message about our great school is getting out so eloquently. Congratulations on both the message and the messenger. Please be sure to let her know how well she did.

Dr. William A. Hassey
Former Parent and PMA Advisory Board Chair



SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

Congratulations to PMA's Spelling Bee

Champion, Kevin McAleese in the eighth grade. Kevin is now preparing to compete for the Regional Spelling Bee in March. *We also congratulate Susan Li in the sixth grade for being our second place winner in the school bee.*

Special thanks to Mrs. DeCosta and Mr. D for coordinating the Spelling-Bee.

A special thanks to all of our students who spoke on behalf of Presentation of Mary Academy at various parishes during Catholic Schools Week. They did a great job, and we've heard nothing but positive feedback! WE are VERY PROUD of our STUDENTS.

Speakers

- Lauren Garand (Gr. 7)
- Kevin Rauseo (Gr. 4)
- Sherri Bennett (Gr. 8)
- Bethany Fitzgerald (Gr. 8)
- Krystara Brassard (Gr. 8)
- Marie Anne Hobeika (Gr. 8)
- Kathryn Mosca (Gr. 7)
- Deborah Pimentel (Gr. 7)

YOU ALL MAKE US PROUD! Thank You!



Calendar of Events for March 2007



Wednesday, March 7:

Faculty meeting in the Library at 3:00 P.M.

Parent Group Meeting in the Cafeteria at 7:00 P.M. All welcome - including new members.

Wednesday, March 7:

Progress Reports

Students will receive Progress Reports in the White Envelopes on March 7. Again, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher if you would like to discuss his/her progress at Presentation of Mary Academy.

Thursday, March 8:

TIGER PROGRAM: The Tiger Anti-bullying Education Program will be at PMA for student in grades 6-8 (9:00-9:45 A.M.), and grades K-5 (10:15-11:00 A.M.). The program entitled "A Bully Isn't Your Friend, Yet" is sponsored by the PMA Parent Group.

Friday, March 9:

Faculty and Student Basketball Game at Rivier College at 6:15 PM. See enclosed flyer for more information! Come and join the PMA faculty, staff and students for a great evening of family fun!!

Friday, March 9:

Scholastic School Readiness Testing for First Grade Students entering PMA in the Fall: There will be no school for KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS on March 9. Students registered to enter first grade at PMA in September will be required to take the Scholastic Readiness Test administered at PMA by the kindergarten teachers on March 9. All Kindergarten students taking the test will report to school at their regular time, and will be dismissed at 12:00 P.M. **After-school services will not be available to kindergarten students on March 9th.**

Thursday, March 15:

School Board Meeting at 4:00 P.M. in the PMA Board Room.

DRAMA CLUB PRODUCTION:

"The Magical Land of Oz" will be performed for all families and friends at 7:00 P.M. in the school auditorium!

Friday, March 16:

Mass for Students in Grades 4-8 at 10:00 A.M.
Mass for Students in Grades 1-3 at 1:00 P.M.
Family and friends welcome!

Thursday, March 22:

Grade Three Musical in the School Auditorium at 7:00 P.M. All parents and friends welcome.

Wednesday, March 28:

Field Trip for students in grade 2 to the North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, MA. Permission forms will be sent home to parents in the white shuttle envelopes.

Thursday, March 29:

Athletic Awards Dinner in the School Cafeteria. Arrival time between 6:00 and 6:15pm.

Friday, March 30:

\$2.00 Dress Down Friday for Computers!

Planning Ahead

April 10 through April 13:

Spring Standardized Assessment

Beginning April 10 through April 13, students in grades 2 through 8 will be assessed with the Terra Nova/InView California Achievement Test. Unlike most tests that the students are familiar with, no preparation is necessary for this test. The test will be administered at various time slots (usually in the morning) during the week of **April 10 through April 13.**

Parents, please refrain from scheduling appointments or vacations for your child at this time. Rescheduling missed tests is very difficult for the child and teacher.

The TerraNova Assessment provides us with a useful profile of instructional strengths and weaknesses as well as traditional comparisons with national norms. The results from the *InView* will help determine whether students are working up to their scholastic potential. Test results will be used in conjunction with other factors about the student to meet individual and school instructional needs. The results can provide valuable insights into areas of a student's strengths and needs.

It is our goal to use the test results to:

1. Support, improve, or develop new instructional strategies
2. Assist in the evaluation and development of curriculum
3. Assist in identifying strengths and weaknesses and to monitor longitudinal growth for individuals, groups, and the school.

Individual tests results will be sent to parents in June.

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

Important dates and events to help you plan ahead!

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS/

SCHOOL UNIFORMS: Per request of many families and the teachers at PMA, effective for the 2007-08 school year, the KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS will be wearing the PMA SCHOOL UNIFORM. A uniform fitting date has been scheduled on May 17 from 6:00-7:00 P.M. and on May 18 from 1:30 PM. until 2:30 PM.

PRESENT KINDERGARTEN PAR-

ENTS: On May 18, 2007, 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 18, 2007.

BASKETBALL NEWS

Congratulations to all of our **BASKETBALL and CHEERLEADING TEAMS AND COACHES!** PMA proudly boasts

of a victorious season. Our boys Mites and girls Mites A Teams had a great season, making it all the way to the State Play-offs. In the NH State Catholic School Championship, our Girls Mites A team received the Runner Up Trophy and our Boys Mites Team were the State Champions. The Boys will now compete in the NE Championship game which will take place in Springfield Mass, March 23rd - 25th.

The Cadet teams had one of the best seasons ever, winning several games! Our PMA Cheerleaders have done a great job, doing what they do best, SUPPORTING OUR teams at the games.

An extra special thank you to all of our dedicated COACHES for their long hours, hard work and commitment to our students!

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendars

- April 2:** Easter Egg Sale
April 4: Art Performance by Rob Surette for students in gr. 4-8
April 6-9: No School—Easter Break
April 10-13: CAT Testing
April 16: PMA Night at Barnes and Nobles 7:00-8:30PM
April 19: PMA Final Battle of the Books held in the evening. Report Cards sent home Masses 10:00AM & 1:00PM
April 20: PMA Walkathon
April 23-27: No School - April Break
May 1: Roller Kingdom Night
May 2: Science Fair Grade 6
May 3: Science Fair Grade 7-8
May 4: Science Fair Awards Ceremony 10:30am for Gr. 6-8
May 5: PMA YARD SALE
2007 NHMEA Middle School Music Festival in Hooksett
May 10: Grade 4 & 5 Musical 7:00PM
May 14: Field Trip - Grade 4
State House & NH Museum
May 17: Ascension Thursday:
Mass Grades 4-8 at 10:00 AM.
Mass Grades 1-3 at 1:00 PM.
Uniform Fitting 6:00-7:00 PM.
May 18: Uniform Fitting
1:30-2:30 P.M.
May 18: Open House for All New Incoming Students to PMA.
Early Dismissal at 11:30AM for present kindergarten students
May 18: PMA Annual Golf Tournament
May 22: Field Trip Grade 1
Roger Williams Park Zoo
May 23: Field Trip Grade 3
Industrial History Center
May 24: Field Trip—Grade 7
Historic Tour of Boston
May 25: Field Trip—Kindergarten to Butterfly Place
May 25: Eighth Grade Graduation Dinner/Dance
June 6: Kindergarten Graduation 9:30 A.M. (Last Day for K)
June 7: Eighth Grade Graduation 7:00 P.M. (Last day for Gr 8)
June 13: Tentative Last Day for Grades 1-7 with dismissal at 11:00 A.M.

Special Word of Thanks

A special word of thanks to all the parents who participated in our Catholic Schools Week activities! The week was truly spirit-filled! A special thanks to members of the PMA Parent Group for hosting so many wonderful events during Catholic Schools Week. We had a great week, and thank you for your continued commitment to your child's education!

PMA'S LARGEST YARD SALE EVER ON MAY 5 FROM 8:00-2:00 P.M.

Tables will be rented to vendors on a first come, first served basis at \$25.00 each.

Parents, save your yard sale items for this great event. Items can be donated to the school yard sale, or you can rent a table for \$25 and sell your own treasures for YOU!

Food, games, and other activities will be available for the whole family! Save the date! Rain or Shine, we're ON!

PMA Annual Golf Tournament May 18, 2007

This year's PMA golf tournament has been moved to the popular "Jungle" course at Green Meadow Country Club in Hudson, NH. We have also moved the date to a **Friday, May 18, 2007** so that you will not have to take personal time out of your weekend to support us. Since we do not have to reach a minimum number of golfers, we have been able to lower our price to **\$95.00, with an early bird discount of \$85.00.** Look for details when the flyer comes out in a few weeks, but, in the meantime...**SAVE THE DATE!**

Uniform Changes for 2007-08

Parents, in addition to the regular uniform, we will be offering parents the option of purchasing the polo shirt in maroon rather than just white. Students will be allowed to wear the maroon or white polo shirts during the warm weather.

Pink and yellow peter-pan blouses or shirts will be discontinued. All students will be required to wear only white shirts or blouses. Students may continue to wear their present shirts until they are no longer usable. Also, the gray sweatpants and shorts will be changed to maroon pants and shorts with a gray or maroon top as an option.

MEDITATION ON LENT

by Don Schwager

The Forty Days is a season of grace to prepare our hearts anew to celebrate the *Feast of the Christian Passover* (Easter). It is the annual time of retreat for the Christian people. Forty days is a tenth of a year, a tithing of our year to the Lord. The Forty Days is a time for remembering what Christ did for us in his death and resurrection. Like the Israelites on their journey to the promised land, we, too, are sojourners on our way to the promised land--the life of the age to come in heaven. In this time of retreat we set aside other pursuits that we may seek the Lord more earnestly, in repentance, humility, and a sincere desire to be more fully conformed to the will of Christ in every area of our lives.

The first reading of Lent on *Ash Wednesday* is taken from the prophet Isaiah. It is a call to take the high-roads to repentance. The first high-road to repentance is the humble acknowledgment of our sins before God. To acknowledge our sins helps us to stop committing them.

The second high-road is to forgive those who trespass against us, to forget the wrongs done to us, and to refrain from unrighteous anger.

The third high-road is to pray with fervent and diligent prayer, knowing that God will surely reward those who seek him diligently.

The fourth high-road to repentance is almsgiving. Freely God has given to us. He calls us to give freely to others, especially to those who lack basic necessities, for the measure we give will be the measure we get.

Are you ready to seek the Lord in this season, with humility, with fasting, with fervent prayer, and with almsgiving? Ask God to lead you in this time of retreat, to free you from distractions, and to strengthen you in reforming your life.

"Lord Jesus Christ, help me to set aside distractions and unnecessary pursuits that I may seek you diligently in this season of the Forty Days. Help me to examine my life in the light of your truth and grace, that I may conform my life more fully to your will. May all that I do be pleasing to you."

PARENT TIPS AND RESOURCES

How Does Your Child Learn?

Have you ever wondered why it's so easy for some people to listen to books on tape? It has to do with their learning style—the way they best absorb and process information.

There are three main learning styles: visual, auditory, and tactile/kinesthetic. People usually use a combination of learning styles, but are generally most comfortable using one dominant style.

Visual learners gather information using their eyes. Visual learners learn best through diagrams, pictures, and reading. They make up around 65 percent of the population, so most traditional schooling is geared toward the visual learner.

Auditory learners, who make up around 30 percent of the population, take in information through their ears. Auditory learners learn best through listening to explanations followed by discussion. For auditory learners to succeed, it may be necessary for them to read written instructions aloud (in order to *hear* them) to understand them better.

Tactile/kinesthetic learners together make up around 5 percent of the population. They take in information through their sense of touch. These are the students who learn best through hands-on methods. Tactile learners enjoy manipulating objects with their hands. Tactile learners can learn best by rewriting notes, highlighting important text, or building models.

Kinesthetic learners are the kids who are in constant motion. They learn best by moving and associating their body movements with concepts they are trying to learn. These are the students who need to pace around the room while learning and processing information in order to understand it.

Traditional schooling is geared mainly toward visual and auditory learners, but identifying and working with tactile and kinesthetic learners can help engage them and make them feel more like a part of the class.

From the mouths of babes ...

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."



Did you know St. Patrick

was born about 390 AD in Roman Britain. As a youth he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland. He escaped six years later and fled to Gaul. After several years of monastic life, he returned to Ireland in 432 AD as a missionary to the people there. Legend has it that he drove all of the snakes out of the country. It is said that he used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity; hence its strong association with his day and name.

St. Patrick is a hero in Ireland. In fact, there are about 60 churches and cathedrals named for him in Ireland alone. One of the most famous cathedrals is St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. These grounds bear the mark of the place where St. Patrick baptized his converts. Green is associated with Saint Patrick's Day because it is the color of spring, Ireland, and the shamrock.

If God brings
you to it, He
will bring you
through it.

Griffin Cards for Sale!

Look for more information in the White Envelope! Griffin cards make great Birthday and Easter Gifts! Cards will cost \$10, and have a retail value of over \$300 in coupon savings for restaurants, shops, etc.

Please Save

- ◆ **Box Tops for Education**
- ◆ **Campbell Soup Labels**
- ◆ **Used Ink and Toner Cartridges**
- ◆ **Used Cell Phones**