



Presentation of Mary Academy

March 2008

182 Lowell Road Hudson, NH 03051

Visit us on the web site www.pmaschool.org

Lent can be a good time to reflect on the people who mean the most to us and the relationships we hold most dear. For those of us who live in industrialized countries, it can be jarring to realize that our time together as a family might amount to no more than a few minutes a day. Our lives are independent as we scatter in different directions each day for work, school or childcare. This season of reflection and renewal might be an appropriate time to pray about our family lives and how we can be more thoughtful and prayerful about Lent as a family.

Perhaps we could hold a family meeting over dinner or some other relaxed place. We could discuss Lent and the symbols of the season using resources in the parish. We might want to talk about how our faith life is not a journey we make alone, but one we are in as a community, as a family.

One Lenten family practice might include a daily act of love for our family. Can we look around and see some small thing that needs to be done to make our lives together better? Is there laundry to sort or dishes to be washed? Is there a floor that needs sweeping or a room that needs dusting? Just one effort by each of us each day can make a dramatic difference in sharing the workload in the family. The grace we are reaching for goes beyond getting the garbage taken out, for example. We know it is a grace when my experience of taking the garbage out feels to me like an act of love, an act of solidarity as a family. Perhaps the simplest way to prepare for this grace is to pray:

Dear Lord, may this simple, ordinary sacrifice of my time for the sake of those I love, draw us closer together as a family whose hearts you are drawing to yourself in the togetherness of our family love.

One of the real graces of Lent has to do with forgiveness and reconciliation – mercy and healing. This is never simply a matter between Jesus and me. It always has something to do with my family and with my relationships – how we are with each other. What in us needs mercy and healing? What patterns that we have need our reflections and common family choices and actions this Lent?

As we approach Holy Week, we invite you to set aside some time for a mini family retreat. Parents and children can prepare scripture passages that reflect the events of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Reading and sharing the scripture passages that highlight the life of Jesus during the Holy Days is a wonderful way for children to enter more fully into the true meaning of Easter.

May your Easter be filled with many ALLELUIA moments!

Your in Christ,

Sr. Maria Rosa, pm

If you look carefully you will see that there is one thing and only one thing that causes unhappiness. The name of that thing is Attachment. What is an attachment? An emotional state of clinging caused by the belief that without some particular thing or some person you cannot be happy. Anthony de Mello



SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

Congratulations to PMA's Spelling Bee Champion, **Susan Li** in the seventh grade. Susan is preparing to compete for the Regional Spelling Bee on March 9 at 1:00 pm at the Elks Lodge on Daniel Webster Highway in Nashua. We also congratulate **Anushya Raghuram** in the seventh grade, our second place champion.

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

- Jacob Gindhart Gr. 4**
- Emile Hobeika Gr. 4**
- Dylan Lortie Gr. 4**
- Claire Mutty Gr. 4**
- Emma Stalker Gr. 4**
- Melissa Fraser Gr. 7**
- Caroline Gindhart Gr. 7**
- Kaitlin Coumas Gr. 7**

YOU ALL MAKE US PROUD! Thank You!



Calendar of Events for March 2008



Valentino Nights—Mondays:

Every Monday is PMA Night at Valentino from 4:00 PM until closing—dine at Valentino's and earn 20% cash for PMA.

Battle of the Books Meetings:

March 11 and March 25 from 2:30 until 3:15 pm.

Tuesday, March 4:

Field Trip for students in grade 6 to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Permission forms were sent home to parents in the white shuttle envelopes.

Wednesday, March 5:

- ◆ Faculty meeting in the Library at 2:50 P.M.
- ◆ Pre-Kinder - enrichment activity with the Drama Kids Production Co.
- ◆ Parent Group Meeting in the Cafeteria at 7:00 P.M. All welcome - including new members.

Wednesday, March 5—Progress Re-

ports: Students will receive Progress Reports in the White Envelopes on March 5. 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 6:

Mass for Students in Grades 1-3 at 1:00 pm
Family and friends welcome!

Friday, March 7:

Mass for Students in Grades 4-8 at 10:00 pm. Family and friends welcome!

Saturday, March 8: NH Spirit Invitational Cheerleading Competition!

Come and support out Mite and Cadet Teams as they compete for the Championship title in this years competition at Bishop Guertin! The competition will take place anytime between 9:00am and noon.

Friday, March 14:

Session III: Enrichment Courses Begin for Junior High School Students.

Friday, March 14:

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 14:

Scholastic School Readiness Testing for First Grade Students entering PMA in the Fall: There will be no school for KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS on March 14. 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 14. 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 14th.

Wednesday and Thursday, March 19-20

Easter Egg Sale! Join the Easter Egg Hunt fun at PMA by purchasing an Easter Egg for 50¢. Crack your egg open and you will find candy, and who knows, a dress down pass, lunch with the principal, free hot lunch pass! Take a chance and WIN BIG! More information to come home in the white envelope!

Friday, March 21:

Good Friday—No school!

Wednesday, March 26:

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.

Wednesday, March 26:

- ◆ Athletic Awards Dinner in the School Cafeteria. Arrival time between 6:00 and 6:15 pm.
- ◆ Coffee Cakes Fundraising Sales Begin

Friday, March 28:

\$2.00 Dress Down Friday for Technology!

Saturday, March 29:

PMA Family Pasta Night 5:30-6:30 pm! No cooking on this night - all families are invited to have dinner at PMA. The menu will consist of two different pasta dishes, salad, rolls and cold drinks. Parents are asked to bring their favorite dessert to be shared with other families. More information to come home in the White Envelope.

Planning Ahead

March 31-April 4:

CAT Test Preparation week for students in grades 2-8!

April 7 through April 11:

Spring Standardized Assessment

Beginning April 7 through April 11, 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 7 through April 11.**

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!

PRESENT KINDERGARTEN PARENTS: On May 9, 2008, 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.

Pre-K and Kindergarten—Last Day of Classes will be Friday, June 13, at 1:50PM (informal classroom party at 12:00 PM for parents in each classroom—no formal cap and gown graduation for kindergarten students.)

IMPORTANT DATES—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 3- 4 Field Trip Gr. 6, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- 3- 5 Drama Kids program Pre-K DD: 9:00 – 10:00 am
TP: 10:00 – 11:00 am Alumni Hall
- 3- 5 Staff Meeting
- 3- 5 Progress Reports go home
- 3- 6 Mass Gr. 1 – 3 1:00 pm
- 3- 7 Mass Gr. 4 – 8 10:00 am
- 3- 8 Mite and Cadet Invitational Cheerleading Competition at
Bishop Guertin
- 3- 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins! Spring forward.
- 3-11, 25 Battle of the Books 2:30-3:15PM
- 3-13 Six Traits Workshop for Staff in grades 3 – 8 (2:45 – 4:00 pm)
- 3-14 Staff-Student Basketball Game,
Rivier College Gym, 6:00/6:30 pm arrival
- 3-14 Spring session of mini-courses begins! Gr. 6- 8
- 3-19 Six Traits Workshop for Staff in grades 3 – 8 (2:45 – 4:00 pm)
- 3-21 Good Friday No School
- 3-26 Gr. 2 Field Trip North Shore Music Theatre
- 3-26 Sports Awards Supper School Cafeteria Time: 6:15-8:15
- 3-29 Pasta Supper (Parent Group) 5:30 pm
- 3-31 CAT TESTING Preparation Week
- 3-31 Sadlier Workshop for Registered Staff (3:45 – 5:00 pm)
- 4- 2 Staff Meeting 2:50-4:30 pm
- 4- 3 PMA Night at Barnes and Noble!
- 4- 3 Mass Gr. 1 – 3 1:00 pm
- 4- 4 Mass Gr. 4 – 8 10:00 am
- 4- 4 End of 3rd Quarter
- 4- 6 Piano Recital 2:00 – 3:15 pm Alumni Hall
- 4- 7 thru 4-11 CAT TESTING WEEK
- 4- 9 Pre-K in-house enrichment program 2 sessions: 9:00 & 10:00
- 4- 9 Parent Group Meeting
- 4-11 Mother-Son Game Night
- 4-13 Piano Recital Back-up Day
- 4-16 Report Cards Sent Home
- 4-25 Final class of mini-course spring session
- 4-22 Final Battle of the Books Time: TBA
- 4-23 Administrative Professionals Day
- 4-28 thru 5-2 Spring Vacation Break
- 5- 7 Gr. 6 Science Fair
- 5- 7 Staff Meeting
- 5- 7 Parent Group Meeting 7:00 pm
- 5- 8 Science Fair gr. 7 and 8
- 5- 9 Progress Reports sent home – on an as-needed basis
- 5- 9 Science Awards Assembly Gr. 6-8 Alumni Hall
- 5- 9 Mass Gr. 1 – 3 1:00 pm
- 5- 9 Gr. 5 Red Cross Course (May 16, 23, 30 and June 5)
- 5- 9 PMA Annual Golf Tournament
- 5- 9 Kinder Early Dismissal at 11:30 AM (Open House for new
Kindergarten students entering PMA in the fall from 12:30-
1:45 pm)
- 5-15(16) Piano Auditions in Manchester
- 5-16 Kindergarten Field Trip New England Aquarium
- 5-17 PMA Yard Sale and Grades 7/8 Alumni Car Wash
- 5-21 Gr. 4 Field Trip Concord: State House/Christa McAuliffe
Gr. 1 Field Trip Roger Williams Park Zoo
- 5-23 Gr. 3 Field Trip Tsongas Industrial History Center, Lowell
- 5-23 Grade 8 Graduation Dinner and Dance
- 5-26 Memorial Day – No School
- 5-30 Gr. 7 Field Trip-Old Town Trolley Tour of Boston
- 5-30 Gr. 8 Field Trip-Encore Chamber Theatre, Boston
- 6- 6, 7 PMA Staff Retreat
- 6-11 Grade 8 Graduation at 7:00 PM
- 6-13 Nashua Pride Game for PMA Families
- 6-13 Last Day of School for Pre-K and Kindergarten
- 6-18 Tentative Last Day of School for Grades 1-7—Dismissal at
11:00 am

PMA'S LARGEST YARD

**SALE ON MAY 17
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!

Profits from this yard sale to purchase laptops for our Junior High School! Reserve your table now through the school office.

PMA Annual Golf

Tournament May 9, 2008

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 **May 9, 2008**, a Friday, 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!**

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 NIGHT at VALENTINO'S RESTAURANT EVERY MONDAY

PMA Night at Valentino's Restaurant every Monday Night - 4:00PM until Closing! Dine at Valentino's on Monday nights and PMA will receive 20% back of your total food purchase. It's simple; just write "PMA FAMILY" on the back of the receipt when you pay your bill! PMA will also receive 10% on any lunchtime purchase made Monday through Friday.

**Always say your
prayers...it's a
great way to get to
know GOD bet-**

For Your Planning Purposes the Tentative Last Days of School will be

Grades 1-7

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 11:00AM

Pre-Kinder and Kindergarten Last Day

Friday, June 13 at 1:50PM (informal classroom party at 12:00 PM for parents in each classroom—no formal cap and gown graduation.)

Grade 8 last day will be Wednesday, June 11

dismissal at 11:00 AM with Graduation Mass at 6:30 PM in the PMA Chapel

PARENT TIPS AND RESOURCES

Help Your Children Improve Their Study Skills

If your children need to improve their study skills, they need to develop the habit of studying in advance of the time papers are due or tests are given. Don't allow them to get locked into pulling all-nighters or cram sessions.

To get into a good study routine, young people need to decide exactly what they need to study and how much. Suggest they look at the class schedule, check class deadlines, and then enter those dates in their planner so that tests and papers don't sneak up on them.

If your children struggle with procrastination, help them learn to study whatever they dread most, first. This is a great principle to live by. It helps free you to enjoy the other things in life. Whatever you are putting off, just do it and get it out of the way.

Suggest children study in small chunks of time, interspersed with short breaks. If they've been working and find themselves not being productive, it's probably time for a break. Just remind them not to procrastinate. Also suggest that if they need to memorize a long list of facts, it is often advantageous to do that just before falling asleep.

If your child needs help in a subject, perhaps he or she can study with a friend. Help the child choose a friend who is serious about studying so that the friend won't just be a distraction.

Adapted from the University of North Carolina website

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 and our Boys Mites Team were the State Champions. The Teams will now compete in the New England Championship game which will take place in Boston Mass, April 4 through 6 at the Reggie Lewis Center.

The Cadet teams had one of their 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!



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.

School Directories **Now Available!**

A special word of thanks to Mrs. Anne Glisson and Mrs. Suzanne Mutty for getting our school directory ready for distribution. The directory listings can be found on our website.

Please Save

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

PMA NURSING STAFF

We welcome with open arms and hearts three wonderful nurses to our school community; Mrs. Kerry Jeknavorian, (mon. & fri.) Mrs. Nicole Tompkins, (tues.) and Mrs. Bernadette Dee (wed. & thurs.)