

New Early Learning Center at Immaculate Conception School

By Michael Ortoski
PEN ARGYL - The school community of Immaculate Conception School, Pen Argyl, celebrates the new school building for the new Early Learning Center.

The new building will provide educational experiences for children of preschool age, kindergarten and first grade. Groundbreaking occurred in November 2017 and was fully erected after the new year. It is slated to be completely finished the summer of 2018 and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be planned, read the Blue Valley Times for the date.

Funding for the project came in part from the Allentown Dioceses \$150K, the Scott family \$50k and in-kind services for the excavation. The Capobianco

family \$50k, the Blue & White Foundation \$50k and the Hughes family \$50k.

"Our new building will have 'state of the art' technology with new smart boards, computers, fast internet and wifi throughout the building said Sister Maria Luz, principal of Immaculate Conception School."

Immaculate Conception School now educates children from preschool to eighth grade. The school has maintained a strong Catholic identity and character primarily due to the presence of Dominican Sisters from the Philippines. For more information about their school or to donate for the new building please call Sister Maria Luz 610-863-4816 to schedule a visit.



Pictured from left, front, are children from the pre-school, kindergarten and first grade who stopped by to see the progress of the new center; second row, Mary Elchert, teacher; Father Joseph Kweder, administrator of St. Rocco, Martins Creek; Congregation of the Missions (Vincentian Fathers, C.M.) Father James Prior, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Roseto; Congregation of the Missions Father Thomas Prior, assistant pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.; Monsignor Vincent York, pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Pen Argyl; Father Stephen Maco, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Bangor; Dominican Daughters of the Immaculate Mother (O.P.) Sister Maria Luz, principal of Immaculate Conception School; Dominican Daughters of the Immaculate Mother Sister Maria Juveneeh; Dominican Daughters of the Immaculate Mother Sister Maria Kate; and Monica Castone, teacher.

Crayola Teacher Appreciation

By Carol O'Brien

BANGOR- Last Tuesday, Crayola employees visited more than 300 schools across the nation to thank teachers for all they do. Washington Elementary was one of the 300 and we received a personal thank you and special thank you gifts for each teacher! The teachers found a box of Collector's Edition crayons and a card in their mailbox. In addition, Washington Elementary School will receive a \$500 Crayola product donation that will be shipped from Crayola to the school in June.



Art teacher Mrs. Lynn Beck and Crayola representative, Amanda Williams.

Crayola firmly believes creativity helps kids grow into adults who have the ability to inspire the world. Teachers unleash the power of creativity with kids! Crayola admires and appreciates teachers passion and commitment to helping young minds grow! Today and every day, they celebrate and THANK YOU for all you do! You all are truly AWESOME!

A special thank you is extended to Mrs. Beck for accepting this special gift on behalf of our school. But, then again who better to accept such a gracious gift!!!!



Mark M. Kukla
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

31 West First St.
 Wind Gap, PA 18091

Licensed in PA & NJ

Taxation
 Business Consulting
 Accounting Services

(p) 610.863.7776
 (f) 610.514.4433
 mmkcpa@epix.net



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Change

It might be something you have in your pocket or it might be something you need to do. A mentor of mine once asked to see my hands during a conversation we were having. He touched my fingernails and said something to the effect that when you have ridges and grooves in your fingernails it means that you don't like change. I don't know if that is an old wives tale or what, but it was pretty true for me. I like things I can count on. I also like to keep things that seem to be working just the way they are. The biggest problem with that mentality is that the world doesn't work that way.

My first mobile phone was bigger than a case of beer and probably just as heavy. It had the amazing ability to place and receive calls with no physical connection to the earth and for only about \$300 per month. My current handheld device does more than my old computer, a secretary, and a phone combined and is faster and less expensive than any phone I have ever owned. I can change when I am convinced that it is necessary. It still takes time to get my mind ready for the shock but I get through it.

I sometimes need to convince others to change their way of thinking and it is not without empathy. I don't ask to see their fingernails but I fully understand that most people have an invisible wall between them and everyone else and their business is nobody's but their own. I respect that. But if you invite me into your home to repair your comfort system, we are not just strangers who met on the street. I assume I have been googled long before I set foot into your home and that I passed the background check. If I tell you that your air conditioner is not worth spending several hundred dollars on, it's not because I have my eye on a new Harley, it's because in today's world, there is no value in paying someone to do a job that is sure to fail. Even though many parts are available for older equipment, rebuilding a 20 year old air conditioner piece by piece over a 3 or 4 year period just leaves you with an unreliable, obsolete relic and I don't get a rewarding feeling from work like that. Government has made R-22 refrigerant obsolete and extremely expensive. They are trying to send a message. You can have it if you can afford it. Some change is for the better in the long run.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

Dinky's Ice Cream Celebrates Six Years

By Anne Brown

BANGOR- Dinky's Ice Cream Parlor celebrated their 6 year anniversary on Saturday, May 5th.

They had sidewalk chalk and featured their 'Quarry Bucket Challenge', which had 12 scoops of ice cream, 2 bananas, 3 liquid toppings, whip cream and cherries.

Dinkys would like to thank all of their employees and customers who have supported them over the past six years. They truly appreciate everyone's support.

Located on the Corner of First Street and Broadway in downtown Bangor, PA, Dinky's Ice Cream Parlor is proud to serve up 24 flavors of soft serve ice cream along with a flavorful array of home made hand dipped ice cream.



Owners Norm and Jill Mathews and employees



Steve Forbert to Headline LRCA Benefit Concert

By Bernard McGurl

SCRANTON – The Lackawanna River Conservation Association will cap its 30th anniversary year with a June 1 concert by two-time Grammy nominee Steve Forbert in Shopland Hall of the Scranton Cultural Center.

New Jersey singer-songwriter Jesse Bardwell will be the evening's opening performer and will join Mr. Forbert on stage during the feature concert.

The evening will begin with a preshow cocktail party in the Center's Shopland Lobby at 7:30 p.m. The concert will begin at 8:30 and will be followed by a

meet-and-greet with Mr. Forbert and Mr. Bardwell in the lobby.

Mr. Forbert was raised in Meridian, Miss., and after playing in local bands took his guitar and talent to New York City when he was 21. He started out playing for change at Grand Central Station and hitting every open mic night he could before



Steve Forbert

REALTY EXECUTIVES



Call us for all your Real Estate needs.

Joe & Nancy Kessler and Corinne Groff

31 W First Street, Wind Gap

Office: 610.863.8444

Direct: 484.515.2947

joe@kesslerhometeam.com

www.KesslerHomeTeam.com



eventually moving into New York's music scene at venues like CBGB's. At that time, rootsy rock was fading in favor of punk-edged bands such as the Ramones, Talking Heads, and Blondie.

Mr. Forbert's first album, *Alive on Arrival*, was released in 1978 and bucked the music trends of the day. Mr. Forbert's second album, *Jackrabbit Slim*, was released in 1979 and included the performer's most well-known song, "Romeo's Tune," which rose to 11 on the charts and brought the performer the international audience for whom he still performs.

Continued to page 17