

Alumni Of The Month...

Meribeth DeBarto graduated from Conemaugh Township in 1986. After graduating in 1986, Meribeth attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she studied Elementary Education. Ms. DeBarto transferred to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown after junior year to complete her degree. She also earned a MA degree from Gannon in Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. DeBarto commented on her inspiration, "My mom taught elementary school for 34 years and was even a principal for eight years (while teaching her regular class). She is my inspiration for choosing education as my career." In 1999, she was hired by her alma mater, Conemaugh Township, as a sixth grade ELA teacher. "Working as a substitute really opened my eyes. It was frustrating and rewarding all at the same time. I was able to teach everything from kindergarten to eighth grade. A few times I was the substitute Guidance Counselor and even the Principal one day. Once I was hired by my home district, I felt like the luckiest person on earth, teaching with the best of the best- Jenny Shank, Joyce Kamzik, and the "one of a kind" Gary Fulton, who provided me with the tools to be my absolute best."

Ms. DeBarto resides with her husband Joe Stringent and her two sons Mickey and Jack. Mickey is a junior at IUP studying Safety Science and Jack is a freshman at Penn Highlands. Meribeth's mother also lives with her.

One of Ms. DeBarto's favorite memories is while being a student of Mr. Andolina. "Mr. Andolina allowed me to run dittos, correct papers, cut out letters, basically any-thing he needed done, I was there for him. The Contownian and Yearbook staff even came in on Saturdays to proof the layout. Even though he would voice his frustrations at times, we knew he loved and cared about us. She finished by saying, "What I learned from him in those two short years is immeasurable." You can find Ms. DeBarto in room 113 at Conemaugh Twp. Middle School doing what she loves best - teaching.

