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**HAPPY KINDERGARTENERS**—Thanks to Gary Drake (pictured, center), Mrs. Kim's class has a new SmartBoard. Also pictured (right): Linda Zale and Ward Jewell.

## Drake Construction Donates Services, Technology To Good Shepherd School

By Amanda Peabody

Budget cuts are felt everywhere, but none so much as at local schools. With little money to work with, even private schools like Good Shepherd Catholic School are feeling the effects.

Last summer, the school found itself in dire need of an expanded kindergarten room. The only option it saw was to convert an old science classroom, housed in the basement, to a room large enough for the class. But how to convert a room equipped with work stations—think gas lines and sinks—to a safe haven for young children?

Enter Gary Drake, president and founder of Drake Construction.

In partnership with Ward Jewell Architect AIA and Interior Designer Linda Zale, Drake donated his services so the kindergartners would have a state-of-

the-art learning space.

"For the last four years, I have been donating (my time and work) more than ever," said Drake. "Helping others sets a good example for my kids."

Drake, with Jewell and Zale, completely revamped the classroom, gutting it of its contents and redesigning the floor plan, adding custom cabinetry and redecorating. Drake donated the final touch: a SmartBoard, which is an interactive whiteboard with touch control that allows teachers and students to work together.

"I think it's a good selling point for our school," said Principal Terry Miller. "We get many new families (with kindergarten-age children), so (the new kindergarten room is) a great draw."