

GODDARD SCHOOL PLANS EXPANSION

By Julia Biggs • July 6, 2011



Barbara Burrows shows part of the area that will be The Goddard School Annex.

Having helped fill a gap in childcare options in the Edwardsville area for the past two years, The Goddard School® is expanding to an adjacent site to make room for a new before-school and after-school program and provide additional space for infant, toddler and pre-school programs.

The school, located at 801 Arbor Vitae, off of the new Illinois 159 at the Park at Plum Creek, has seen tremendous success since opening in 2009. Owner Barbara A. Burrows said that success and subsequent demand for childcare fueled the current expansion.

A primary goal was to provide space for the 45 children who are on her two-and-under wait list. Her wait list remains at between 30 and 35 year-round. “It’s almost to the point where if you’re even thinking about getting pregnant, you’d better put your name on a list somewhere,” she said about this area’s need for childcare for two-and-unders.

Recognizing a need among the school’s existing parents and an opportunity to offer the Goddard approach for school-aged children, Burrows decided to expand above the adjacent Park at Plum Creek retail space that currently houses Peel Wood Fired Pizza, What to Wear and Breathe in its lower level.

The 4,120 square feet of space on the second level, which will be called The Goddard School Annex, will accommodate up to 40 school-aged children up to age 12 enrolled in the school’s before-and-after-school program and will be available for children who need care during school holidays as well. In addition, the space will be occupied by approximately 40 children in The Goddard School’s existing Pre-K and Junior Kindergarten programs. Moving these programs to the annex will allow for more children to be accepted into the 2-and-under programs, which are located at the main school building.

The annex will have the same security features that the main school utilizes. Parents will enter the annex via an elevator on the main level, while upstairs, they will need to scan their hand to be admitted entry into the school.

The space will feature a tree house theme, taking advantage of the beautiful view the rear of the building provides overlooking a wooded area and creek. A walkway from the lower level will lead to a gated, secured new playground just south of the building.

“We have always strived to provide the best care for our families and have found that the smallest conveniences go a long way with our parents. By offering a before- and after-school program, our families have the opportunity to not only further expose their children to the Goddard method of learning through the age of 12, but also have the luxury of making one stop in the morning and evening when picking up their children after a long day at work,” said Burrows.

All teachers have a bachelor’s or master’s degree in elementary education which Burrows noted was an advantage to their program because teachers offer after-school tutoring. “My plan all along was to try to make the parents’ lives easier; also, to get the kids’ homework done before they go home at night so that when they go home, they can have quality time with their parents,” Burrows said.

The Goddard School will provide traditional bus transportation to schools within District 7 for those students participating in the before-and-after school program.

The facility will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. for families in need of early morning or extended evening hours. Pending construction approvals, the new annex will open in fall, 2011. A wait list is currently available for those who wish to reserve care for their children in advance of the opening by calling 692-9464.

Tours will be offered from noon to 4 p.m. on July 16 at the school’s annual Children’s Expo. The event will include the opportunity to tour the school, visit the location of the annex and enjoy several children’s activities including a bounce house, live music, a visit from Elmo and Dora and a book signing by local children’s author Jennifer Ward. A blood drive will also be held during the Expo. The event is free and open to the public.

The expansion by The Goddard School will add 10 new jobs in the community and help further the development of the Park at Plum Creek. With the retail building now at full occupancy,

Burrows said that the developers are hoping to build additional retail and office space as well as space for new restaurants just south of the Goddard Annex.

Burrows noted that they were excited about the expansion and added, “We have been so fortunate in how the community has embraced our school and are thrilled to have the opportunity to expand our services to families in need of quality child care. We welcome new families to visit our school any time and experience for themselves the Goddard way!”

For more information about The Goddard School in Edwardsville visit www.goddardschool.com