

Local Goddard School wins accolades

“Quality control is of utmost importance to Goddard,” said Tricia A. McKay.

By Douglas W. Wesner
 Westside Weekly Writer

Nestled among numerous headquarters of several corporate giants in Spring Township stands a tiny school on Commerce Drive, where big things are happening.

This tiny school, Wyomissing's Goddard School, recently received numerous accolades.

The pre-school/day-care center is an integral part of a chain of 280 nation-wide Goddard Schools dedicated to developing a lifelong “love of learning” for each of its 40,000 plus enrolled children.

Dedicated to this end, owners Tricia A. McKay and husband David ventured to the company's four-day convention in Palm Springs, Calif. from Apr. 9-12.

During the event, they attended a choice of professional improvement and educational sessions, social events, that culminated with the ending ceremony where all the school owners congregated and shared their operational experiences.

Merit awards were presented also, said McKay.

This year, the couple received accolades for their efforts, including the Bulls Eye Award for excellent achievement in the categories of professional development, number of occupants housed within the center, quality assurance and

successful business practices.

The judges make their final decision based on a scheduled audit and visitations at each facility.

The McKays, who admitted to being proud of the recognition they received, also captured the Occupancy Award for the number of young students enrolled in relation to the size of the school.

Their success was reflected in the words of Philip Schumacher CEO of the Goddard Systems Inc., following the event, “Tricia manages a wonderful faculty and does a wonderful job of maintaining the principles of the Goddard System.”

One of the original schools founded, the Wyomissing Goddard services several families from the Berks area, with the majority coming from the Wyomissing and Wilson School Districts, McKay noted.

The complex includes a main building with seven classrooms, including an annex housing the pre-kindergarten and the after-school programs in a separate building nearby.

Although McKay admits her school and its staff maintain autonomy in regards to tuition costs and supplemental programming; by specific design, a

common procedure and theory flows through all Goddard Schools, which emphasizes that each child should be free to develop socially and educationally at their own pace.

“Quality control is of utmost importance to Goddard,” admitted McKay, whose career with the Wyomissing center began as a teacher 14 years ago. When the opportunity came to purchase the school, she jumped at the chance. “I simply love what I do here.”

All Goddard centers are measured frequently for quality in curriculum offerings, safety of the children and faculty, supplemental programming and support for the staff members, she added.

McKay has organized the instruction in groups of lead teachers, assistant instructors and aids that often consist of retired public school personnel.

The 25 staff members share her enthusiasm and passion for their jobs also, she adds, and willingly partake in professional development opportunities afforded to them by the system.

For their approximately 135 children currently enrolled, the nurturing begins as early as six-weeks of age, with the staff implementing a progressive plan of socialization, beginning in the one-year-old class or “Tweenies,” to the two-year old class called “Toddlers” and “Get-Setters,” a three year-old class was well as a “Pre-schoolers,” class and an after-school



education programs for children from 5-10 years old.

As in all Goddard Schools, these teachers employ the developmental guidelines using age-appropriate activities in Language Arts, Cognitive Development, Creative Art and Music, Motor Skills, Social Science, Nature Studies and Self Help and Life Skills.

As further proof of the confidence the

McKay's have in their program, daughters Lauren and Leah attend the school, as well.

Tricia is ably assisted by two directors.

"Miss Jenny" oversees the educational and curricular end of the operation and "Miss Marissa" rides heard over the school's logistics, administrative paperwork due and staffing concerns.

"I can view all activities in a moment's notice and I visit each classroom every day, sometimes

more than once," said McKay, willingly offering assistance and support whenever necessary.

The outlook of all concerned at the learning center is reflected in the words of a sign placed by the classroom door:

"When you Enter this Little room, Consider yourself One of Many special people who Enjoy learning and laughing, and playing together."

For more information call 610-478-8757 Monday-Friday.