

## **Broomfield's Treasure: Bonnie Andresen's Legacy of Educational Excellence**

Dr. Vanessa Ewing, Principal at Broomfield Academy

Near the end of the hot summer months of 1970, a young woman by the name of Bonnie Andresen decided to build a new school that would be located between 7203 and 7205 W 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Broomfield, Colorado. This was not a completely new endeavor for her, as she had been raising her three children while operating a daycare out of her home since 1958.

In the late 1960's, new laws would require Bonnie to open a larger childcare facility if she were to continue as a childcare director. With this challenge in mind, Bonnie received the additional training as a Director of a Large Childcare Center, set a lofty goal for herself, and worked to obtain something most women at the time could not do: she, with the assistance of her mother, purchased the property on which she would build her dream.

With Bonnie's spirit, passion, and love for children, her school quickly filled to capacity as she provided care and instruction for infants, preschool and kindergarten students. Two different programs were offered: a traditional teaching program and a Montessori program. Bonnie and her husband Roger built a garden, a swimming pool, and a large play area, all that would further enrich the students' educational experience. Bonnie's school was a success not only because of her tenacity, but also because of the support of her husband and their growing family of five children.

By the mid-1980's Bonnie knew the community was in need of an innovative elementary school. She built a school with individualized learning plans and an enriched curriculum for its students, something that was largely unheard of at that time. Her students were also exposed to foreign languages and experiential learning.

Eventually it came time for Bonnie to retire, and she turned the school over to others that had a common dream: creating a wonderful school environment for children. Through the last few years, several other young women have taken the helm, working to continue Bonnie's legacy. Though she is no longer officially directing its daily activities, anyone who knows Bonnie would not be surprised to know she has always continued to be involved and dedicated to this school.

As the current principal of the school, now called Broomfield Academy, I am inspired by Bonnie's dedication and vision. It is with great pride that I continue to develop what began as Bonnie's dream. I am happy to state that our children continue to have individualized learning plans, foreign language instruction, art, music, and experiential learning activities. Most of all, I am honored to continue Bonnie Andresen's legacy and be the next woman working to create an exceptional learning environment for our children, their future, and our future.

Dr. Vanessa Ewing is the principal of Broomfield Academy. Broomfield Academy is a small, private elementary school dedicated to creating an individualized education for exceptional, accelerated, and creative students. Dr. Ewing can be reached at by email at [principal@broomfieldacademy.com](mailto:principal@broomfieldacademy.com) or by scheduling a tour on campus at 7203 W 120<sup>th</sup> Ave Broomfield CO 80020.