

# Peninsula Heritage Opens Middle School

By Mary Scott

Peninsula Heritage, a private school that has served local elementary students for almost 55 years, expanded its programming this year to include a middle school. Administrators started the process last year by offering a seventh-grade program and continued this year with the addition of an eighth grade.

"This has been the goal of a lifetime!" said **Patricia Cailler**, head of school. "We are so proud to offer a kindergarten through eighth-grade program at our exceptional school."

The decision to expand to a K-8 program came at the urging of parents, said **Joan Behrens**, the school's director of advancement.

"There are few places that offer the programs that we do. ...It's a smaller environment and it's a very caring environment," she added.

Small class sizes and the school's differential instruction in mathematics

and language arts appeals to Peninsula Heritage's many parents. A gifted child can grow at the grade level he or she can work at yet still be among other students of the same age.

The addition of the seventh and eighth grades also provides continuity for the school's students allowing them to complete a full middle school program.

Crews are finishing up the renovations of several buildings at the St. Luke Presbyterian Church, located across the street from the school in Rolling Hills Estates, which will accommodate the school's expansion. Behrens said renovations are expected to be complete sometime this fall.

Peninsula Heritage was founded in 1961 as Wingrock, a K-5 school in Torrance. The school moved to its current location in Rolling Hills Estates in 1976, when it expanded its K-5 program to K-6. In 1987 the board of trustees changed the school's name to Peninsula Heritage.