

## GREEN WOODS TEAM AWARDED PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD!



(Dennis Winters, *GWCS* Board Chair, Kathleen Geist and Juli Vitello accept the award from David Keller-Trevaskis of *PCSS*. Photograph by Jean Wallace)

### MORE EXCITING NEWS FROM THE WOODS!

On October 28, 2009 Juli Vitello, Kathleen Geist, and Jean Wallace of Green Woods Charter School were awarded the Pennsylvania Council of Social Studies 2009 Program of Excellence Award. The team from Green Woods was nominated by Jill Beccaris-Pescatore, an Instructor of Economics at Montgomery County Community College.

The Green Woods' program, entitled, "Pennsylvania Agriculture and Economics through the Eyes of the Amish" is an outstanding example of how other disciplines can tie together using social studies as the focus. This program, funded in part by the Department of Environmental Protection, integrates science, language arts, and social studies.

The overarching theme is how the spatial impacts of land use activities in one region affect another region. It also includes the study of environmental laws and regulations, and economics as it applies to individual rights versus the common or public good. After being immersed in this learning experience, 8th grade student, Gabriella DiGiovanni stated, "The Amish Experience was educational, unforgettable, enriching and remarkable. We learned and understood the Amish ways of life and came to appreciate their morals, values, and beliefs."

Congratulations once again to the award-winning Green Woods team!! Each day our entire team strives to realize the legislative intent of charter school law and that is for our charter schools to be "innovative models for school reform." Upon receiving this award, Jean Wallace, CEO of Green Woods praised Kathleen and Juli for the work they do each day to bring real-life civics issues to the forefront of classroom learning.