

## Who Works At Your Schools? Meet Teri Willard

Teri Willard, in her own words, keeps reinventing herself as a teacher at Vernonia High School. An electives instructor, Willard loves her job and loves her students and keeps finding opportunities to teach here in Vernonia.

Originally from New York, Willard taught Spanish in Colorado for five years before moving to Oregon. She was a stay-at-home mother for ten years and moved to Vernonia with her family in 2006, where she again took up teaching. Willard, who had been living in Clackamas, says she chose Vernonia because she wanted to get away from the crowded suburbs and schools. "I was looking for a small place where I could teach," she says.

In Vernonia, as a part-time teacher, Willard continues to teach Spanish, and in the past has taught Aerobics and Folk Art. Because of shifts in faculty and curriculum, this year she is teaching Leadership. "I think these students are the best of the best, and they are just amazing," says Willard. "It's awesome and I hope I get to keep on teaching them."

"I was a leadership nerd in high

school, involved in student council and planning activities, dances and events," continues Willard. "I'm really enjoying it [teaching Leadership]-- I think I have the best job in Vernonia!"

Willard is very encouraged by a recent trip the Leadership students took to a state conference. "The students were really inspired by that conference in the fall and are really doing some fun things. Their goal in September before the conference was to boost school spirit and I think they have done a really good job so far."

Willard is one of those teachers that every student should experience during their educational years, an instructor who cares about and enjoys her work and builds real relationships with her students. Willard is actively engaged in the lives of her students, not just their school day lives, and treats them like real people. "I love young people," says Willard. "I can't think of anyone I would rather spend my day with than a high school or middle school kid. I love their energy."

This past year, Willard put together a team of twelve students to

compete in the Hood-to-Coast Run and has already registered a team again for the 2011 run. "It is not a school-sanctioned activity, but it's still fun," says Willard. "I'm not a coach-- I go as the driver and cheerleader. It's a lot of fun and very challenging for the kids. And they have a blast!"



Teri Willard teaches Spanish and Leadership at Vernonia High School.

She has also been working with a small group of students for a trip to Costa Rica this upcoming summer,

helping the students fundraise for the trip and organizing a fantastic itinerary for the traveling group. Right now, plans include time at a Sea Turtle research center where students will help patrol the beach and collect turtle eggs to protect them from poachers. Plans also include travel through the rain forest, a home stay with a local family, a visit to an indigenous community, a zipline adventure and a visit to a butterfly reserve. "I have traveled with students before, but it was more as tourists, staying in hotels and traveling by bus from place to place," says Willard. "This will be more like an ecotour."

When not teaching Vernonia students, Willard says she enjoys spending time with her family. She enjoys listening to music, watching movies, cooking and going out to restaurants to eat, hiking and being outside, and road trips and traveling.

Teri Willard is one example of someone who cares about Vernonia, about our schools, and most importantly, about the students she teaches.

## VHS Winter Sports Report

**Boys Basketball--** At the beginning of the season, Coach Ted Aubin predicted the Loggers would finish their non-league schedule without a lot of wins, and Vernonia entered league play with a 3-6 record. But the Loggers have shown improvement as the season has progressed and wins over Neah-Kah-Nie and Riverdale and a tough loss to Knappa, put the Loggers 2-1 in the 2A Northwest League.

Against Riverdale on January 4, the Loggers took a slim two point lead into the locker room at halftime, but came roaring out after the half, defeating the Mavs by a score of 63-39. Coach Aubin got inspired inside play from Bob Michalec, and Austin Edgar, great passing and ball handling from Paul Whiteman, clutch shooting from Tanner Faber and Jordon McMahon and an all around outstanding performance from Craig Weller, who was a menace on defense and trouble all night for the Mav's offensively. The Loggers bench provided help all evening with Byron Weller and Austin Cutright contributing positive minutes.

The Loggers and Lady Loggers have key league home games against Gaston on Jan. 11 and Portland Christian on Jan. 13, as well as upcoming home games against Neah-Kah-Nie on Jan 27 and Nestucca on Feb. 1st.

This team appears to be coming together at just



The Vernonia Loggers' Shylo Dooley was dominant during a recent home meet.

watch a few games this season.

**Wrestling--**The Loggers Wrestlers are picking up right where they left off last year. Coach Chris Wolfe has almost his entire team back from last year's defending District Champions squad, and their experience is showing. Joe Benes, Shylo Dooley, Cody Cowles, and Dillon Dethlefs are all wrestling well, and the varsity squad is getting contributions from Quin Johansen and Kodi Dyer in the middle weights. Brett Benes, Jacob Alf and Alex Barber have been solid in the upper weight classes.

At the Clatskanie Invitational over the holiday break, Shylo Dooley was named Outstanding Wrestler of the meet. Coach Wolfe said the team also performed well against Monroeville, Eddyville Siletz and Perrydale on January 5, only losing a handful of matches in the entire meet.

At the home dual meet in Vernonia on January 6, the Loggers were dominant, defeating Knappa, Rainier and Warrenton. Joe Benes, Dooley, Cowles and Johansen were all outstanding. Alex Barber won a classic heavyweight bout against Knappa and Brett Benes also wrestled well. Even first year wrestler Bill Organ got the first two wins of his young career, both

the right time and is very exciting to watch. Make plans to come out and

by pins, the first in nineteen seconds.

The Loggers are headed to the Oregon Classic in Redmond on January 13, and 14 before returning home to face Corbett and Clatskanie on Thursday January 20th. They will also wrestle at the Clatskanie Tournament on January 22 and the Scappoose Invitational on February 5, before their final home match on February 8 against district rival Central Linn and Neah-Kah-Nie. You are encouraged to come out and support your Loggers--this is a very talented team!

**Girls Basketball--**Coach Steve Whiteman is looking forward to league play with his team. So far the Lady Loggers have shown promise after a tough non league schedule, which should prepare them for their games against their Northwest League rivals.

The girls were 1-1 in league play before struggling at home against big and tough Riverdale on January 4, losing 58-39 and then dominating Delphian 71-11 on January 6.

Coach Whiteman says he has a deep team and has received strong inside play from Mickell Maller, good ball handling, shooting and aggressive play from senior guards Megan and Ariel Rock. He said he's happy to have Kim Allen, who has been recovering from an injury, back in the line-up, and that freshman Stephanie Castro has been a leading scorer. Whiteman says he has gotten solid play from his bench including Kristina Halvorson, Samantha Lindauer, and Natalie Wallace.

This is an aggressive and tough team that should be fun to watch as they make a run at the league playoffs.

Natural Path Health Services

DR. CAROL MCINTYRE  
NATUROPATHIC & CHINESE MEDICINE

503.481.4096  
cccmd@yahoo.com  
naturalpathhealthservices.com

786 BRIDGE STREET  
VERNONIA, OR, 97064

# Mariolino's Pizza & Grill

Open for  
breakfast,  
lunch & dinner

We have ice cream!

Serving Vernonia since 1970

721 Madison Avenue, Vernonia (503) 429-5018

KLS SURVEYING

Owned and Operated by  
Don & Kim Wallace

DON WALLACE, PLS  
Professional Land Surveying  
1224 E. Alder St.  
Vernonia, Oregon 97064  
Phone: 503-429-6115  
FAX: 1-866-297-1402  
Email: DWallace\_KLS@msn.com

CORPORATE  
MEMBER