

# KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Wilson retires from Kennedy

By **DEREK WILEY**  
Of the Keizertimes

The last day at Kennedy Elementary was emotional for kindergarten teacher Linda Wilson, who retired after six years at the Keizer school and 27 in the Salem area.

"It was an amazing day," Wilson said. "I cried all day but it was really awesome. I had a lot of parents and kids come by and bring me amazing gifts. Said goodbye at an assembly. Walked out with the fifth graders. It's just been very emotional. Tears and all, I loved it."

Wilson came to Kennedy when Lake Labish Elementary in Salem closed its doors. She also taught fourth grade at Swegle for two years.

After years as a stay-at-home mom, Wilson started her career as an instructional assistant at Hayesville.

Wanting to get her teacher's license, Wilson went back to school, earning her associate's degree at Chemeketa Community College and then her bachelor's in education at Oregon State.

"I just always liked it," Wilson said of teaching. "I loved my teachers growing up."

Wilson has always taught at Title I schools.

"That's what I choose to be with these students and these families," Wilson said. "I feel really close to all of them. I love providing opportunities for them, giving them a window into the world that's out there because a lot of these families their kids don't have those experiences."

Wilson brought in artifacts from her travels to places like Washington, D.C.



Linda Wilson read to kindergarteners at Kennedy Elementary School in Keizer for the final time last month. Wilson is retiring after 27 years teaching in the Salem-Keizer area.

KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

"I bring a lot of things from home and share with them," Wilson said. "Instead of just reading a book, I bring things they can touch and feel and talk about."

Wilson has also shared many books.

"That's one of my favorite things to do," she said. "I've got a million books here. I don't know what I'm going to do with all of them. I've been

collecting them for so long."

Wilson spent most of her career teaching kindergarten through the second grade.

"I just love being with the younger kids," Wilson said. "I especially love kindergarten and first grade because it's the beginning of learning everything. To open the doors for them on reading and writing is really exciting for me, to be the first step, I really love that.

Wilson will join her husband, who retired nine years ago after teaching 28 years at McKay High School. She's not ready to completely give it up, planning to work part-

time has a substitute. She also plans to volunteer at her church.

"I'm not really ready for a big jump from working to not working," Wilson said.

### obituaries

Submit an obituary through our website at keizertimes.com or send an email to: editor@keizertimes.com

### Leroy Young

January 9, 1928 - May 27, 2017



L. Young

Leroy passed on May 27, 2017.

He was a World War II veteran, serving in the Navy.

Leroy lived in Salem for twenty years and recently moved to Keizer.

He is survived by his son Dan Peterson, of Keizer.

He was laid to rest at Willamette Memorial Cemetery in Portland on Thursday, July 13.

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