



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Linda Tonagel plays math games with second-grader Hadley Craig at Monmouth Elementary School on Friday. Tonagel was named Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Tonagel provides clear expectations

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — For Linda Tonagel, teaching was a natural choice.

"In high school, I had many teachers that influenced me with their love of teaching," Tonagel, 55, said. "My district provided classes that gave me (teaching) opportunities. Those teachers and opportunities, along with my love of children, made it a natural choice."

The 32-year veteran teacher was named Elementary Teacher of the Year by her associates in the Central Education Association.

Tonagel teaches second grade at Monmouth Elementary School. She plays games with her students to help them learn math and work on language arts.

She said the "trick" to get

students to listen and learn — regardless of age — is to provide a loving, safe environment.

"Children want boundaries and will continue to test them to make sure they are there," she said. "When you set those boundaries with clear expectations, and you follow through with love and consistency, then children choose to do their best for you."

Having been in the business of education for three decades, Tonagel said education practices run on a pendulum, and has seen "old ways" in teaching become "new ways."

"The change I think benefited kids the most was when education focused on developmentally appropriate practices," she said. "Unfortunately, education has swung away from that focus and is now focused on testing and test results

that don't always show growth in learning and are not developmentally appropriate."

Tonagel said she misses having time in the classroom to teach things kids get excited about — science, social studies, art and health.

"The lessons and units that made school fun for most adults are cut short because of so much time taken up by testing," she said.

When it comes to being successful in the classroom and in life, parents should teach children to be good listeners, able to follow directions, be responsible and respectful — most of the time — no matter where they are or what they are doing, Tonagel said.

"If parents have these expectations for their child, they will be successful," she said.

Larson finds best in high-school students

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Teenagers are at that perfect age: nearly adults, but still open-minded to new ideas and fresh perspectives.

That's one thing Roseanna Larson loves about teaching them.

"It's a time of tremendous growth and opportunity to have an impact on kids," said Larson, 42, language arts teacher at Central High School.

Larson was named Secondary Teacher of the Year by her peers in the Central Education Association.

"I had no intention of becoming a teacher when I graduated from high school," Larson said. "I went back to school later when my kids were all going to school full time."

Larson is a 1990 graduate of Central High, and was

happy to come back to the community she loves.

Many of the relationships she has with students comes from having gotten to know them first as friends of her own children.

"We're pretty involved in what our kids are doing," Larson said. "It makes classroom management easier when you know a lot of the students and their parents."

Teaching is all about building relationships, she said, and she tells aspiring teachers at Western Oregon University that, too. She teaches content pedagogy for language arts classes at WOU.

"Your students will come along with you to study anything you ask them to study if they buy in that you care," Larson said.

Education has seen a shift from being focused on the teacher to being focused on the student, Larson said.

She is concerned about the way education is steering away from counting homework and meeting deadlines in the grading process with proficiency grading.

"It's not that (homework and deadlines) don't matter, but it doesn't show up in the grade, which is what kids see," Larson said. "It matters to them. I'm concerned about how we can help kids realize that deadlines do matter in life."

Those life skills are not stressed as much as they used to be, Larson said.

She said it is as important for parents to stay involved in their child's education in high school as it is in kindergarten and first grade.

"Having a connection in high school is just as important," Larson said. "I think sometimes that's where students kind of drift, and their parents kind of drift, too."



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Roseanna Larson and her teacher's assistant Alyssa Gregson review paperwork at Central High School. The language arts teacher won Secondary Teacher of the Year.



capitol WEST VALLEY
CERTIFIED • PRE-OWNED • SERVICE



CAPITOL AUTO WEST VALLEY

THE VALLEY'S LARGEST INVENTORY OF PRE-OWNED VEHICLES!

 <p>STK#W1242A VIN#P402437</p> <p>1993 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 1500 CHEYENNE 5.7L V8 • 4X4</p> <p>\$4,288</p>	 <p>STK #T482061B VIN#PA60365</p> <p>2002 FORD RANGER SUPER CAB 4.0L V6 • A/C • 4X4</p> <p>\$8,888</p>	 <p>STK #W1226B VIN#D156926</p> <p>2009 DODGE CALIBER SXT SATELLITE RADIO • ALUMINUM WHEELS</p> <p>\$8,688</p>	 <p>STK #W1236A VIN#CU026383</p> <p>2012 TOYOTA CAMRY HYBRID XLE KEYLESS START • DUAL ZONE A/C</p> <p>\$21,388</p>	
 <p>STK #C227956B VIN#L042830</p> <p>2003 HONDA CIVIC LX BUCKET SEATS • ANTI-THEFT</p> <p>\$4,688</p>	 <p>STK#W1233A VIN#U067750</p> <p>2003 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER XLS ALUMINUM WHEELS • PRIVACY GLASS</p> <p>\$6,288</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p>2 Years or 24k Miles Complimentary Service! <small>*Must have services performed at any Capitol Auto Group location. See dealership for details.</small></p> <p>FULL VEHICLE SERVICE & MAINTENANCE ANY MAKE ANY MODEL!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Knowledgeable Service Advisors to assist you. ✓ Full service car repair and maintenance by Certified Technicians. </div>		
 <p>STK#W1244A VIN#R116289</p> <p>2007 GMC YUKON 5.3L V8 • 4X4 • LOADED!</p> <p>\$17,288</p>		<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p>Service Special 20% OFF! SERVICE OF YOUR CHOICE! <small>Present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Max discount of \$150.00. Exp. 4/30/15</small></p> </div>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p>Lube Oil & Filter \$11.00 OFF! SYNTHETIC OIL! <small>Includes a Free Multi-Point Inspection! Present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Expires 4/30/15.</small></p> </div>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p>Lube Oil & Filter \$9.00 OFF! CONVENTIONAL OIL! <small>Includes a Free Multi-Point Inspection! Present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Synthetic oil extra. Expires 4/30/15.</small></p> </div>

Sales: (503) 623-6686
Service: (888) 480-2074

Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9am. to 6pm.
Service Mon. - Fri. 7:30 - 5:30
812 SE. Jefferson St. Dallas

cap-westvalley.com