

## **YSD Introduces New Principal**

Don Hakala has been named the principal at Yoncalla Elementary School. Hakala has been in education for the past 24 years. He started at Keizer Elementary School in Salem, as a Physical Education teacher and then started taking on more administrative responsibilities because he enjoys learning new things. He was a team leader for K-2nd grade, technology coordinator and was involved with many different committees. He moved to middle school as a behavioral specialist for Walker Middle School for 3 years, then moved to Auburn Elementary School as the assistant principal for three years and then principal at Auburn for 3 years. Auburn is a title 1 elementary school with 680 students with 50% of its population speaking Spanish as their native language. He has most recently been at Lee Elementary School. Lee is also a title 1 school with approximately 310 students.

Hakala is excited to be part of the YSD administrative team. He is married with 3 children. His wife Christy, Natalie 21 (a senior year at Concordia Irvin), Ben 19 (a sophomore at Oregon State) and Ethan 15 (a sophomore at Marist High School). He met his wife Christy at Linfield College and has been married 24 years. His hobbies include playing games with my family, fishing and basketball.

Hakala has a strong belief that all students can learn and it is his job to help them learn and be as successful as possible in life. He is looking forward to working with the staff to help students be the best they can.