

We visited with Lori Burnside, a teacher well known and loved for her energy, love and commitment to her students at Wilson Vance for the past 34 years. Normally this would be a write up about a retiring teacher but with a sparkle in her eyes she plans to continue touching children's lives for as long as possible. In a few weeks she begins her 35th year at the same school she started her career at in 1984.

Lori is a native Findlayite, graduating in 1980 from Findlay High school. She would pursue her education degree at BGSU and in 1984 received a BS degree in Education. She was hired at Wilson Vance after substitute teaching for a mere three weeks. Lori was able to return to BGSU six years later and earned her Master's with a reading endorsement. Her passion with her students is to get them into reading books and taking a break from television and video games.

In her tenure she has taught over 850 4th and 5th graders and has outlasted six principals. She has integrated STEM

projects into her curriculum. For ten years, working with Pam Hamlin and Sharon Irons, they formed a 5th grade show choir which sang and danced for the Elks, Rotary, and numerous retirement homes. She spends her summers taking classes to keep her skills sharp and fresh.

Her focus is to connect with each student, tap into their creativity, teach them to love reading and set and achieve life goals. She works

with a team teacher, Mrs. Robbins and they do their best to make learning fun and exciting all the while meeting state curriculum goals.

Lori's message to parents is "each child is different, learns at a different pace and if you will trust me and give me time I will succeed with your child." She also finds joy following the lives of her students as they grow up and become teachers, doctors and successful people.

Lori has been married to Craig, her high school sweetheart, for 33 years. They have twins, a son and a daughter who are both in college. They are a close family, loving to spend time at the lake in a cabin Craig's grandfather built. She wants to spend as much quality time with her children before they go off to start their own families. She loves walking with her husband where they shut out the world and spend the time talking.

