



Veneta Elementary School

88131 Territorial Road, Veneta, OR 97487

(541) 935-8225

Lisa Leatham, Principal

Gary Carpenter, Superintendent

Fern Ridge School District

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Nancy Willard and her student program, The Way of the Donkey.

The Fern Ridge School District has been holding a Kindergarten through 5th grade summer school for the past four weeks, of which Nancy and her donkeys have been a part. Nancy and the donkeys have been a bit hit with our small groups of students, as they are taught the "Way of the Donkey". Students are informed about the history, social habits, and care of donkeys, then are given the opportunity to walk the donkeys through an obstacle course. All the while, Nancy focuses on teaching students about kindness, empowerment, and self-regulation.

This opportunity has been a fun and educational time for our students and teachers, and has successfully taught our students social emotional elements outside of the typical classroom setting.

Respectfully,

Lisa Leatham
Principal, Veneta Elementary School

